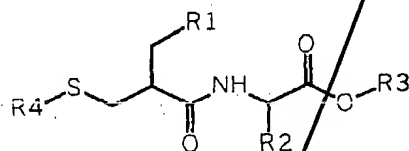


CLAIMS

1. Process for preparing a compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein :

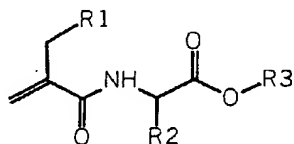
- R<sub>1</sub> represents: - a phenyl group; or  
- a 3,4-methylenedioxyphenyl group
- R<sub>2</sub> represents a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl group;
- R<sub>3</sub> represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl group or a lower phenylalkylene group; and
- R<sub>4</sub> represents a linear or branched aliphatic acyl radical or an aromatic acyl radical,

said process comprising a step (B) which consists in performing a Michael addition of a thioacid of formula (IV):



wherein R<sub>4</sub> has the same meaning as in formula (I),

with an α-substituted acrylamide derivative of formula (V):

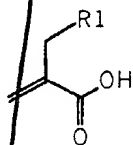


(V)

wherein R1, R2 and R3 have the same meaning as in formula (I).

2. Process according to Claim 1, wherein the group R4 represents an acetyl radical  $\text{CH}_3\text{-CO-}$ , a benzoyl radical  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{-CO-}$  or a pivaloyl radical  $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{-CO-}$ .

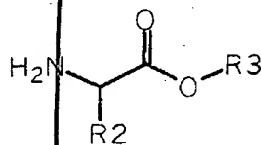
3. Process according to Claim 1 or according to Claim 2, wherein said  $\alpha$ -substituted acrylamide derivative of formula (V) is obtained from a step (A), prior to step (B), comprising a step consisting in performing the coupling of an acrylic acid of formula (VI):



(VI)

wherein R1 has the same meaning as in formula (I),

with an amino ester of formula (VIII):

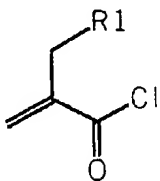


(VIII)

wherein R2 and R3 have the same meaning as in formula (I).

4. Process according to Claim 3, wherein said step (A) comprises the successive steps consisting in:

(A1) reacting said  $\alpha$ -substituted acrylic acid of formula (VI) with an chloro acid so as to obtain an acid chloride of formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein R<sub>1</sub> has the same meaning as in formula (I);

5 and

(A2) reacting the acid chloride of formula (VII) thus obtained with said amino ester of formula (VIII), in the presence of a base, so as to achieve the coupling.

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5. Process according to Claim 4, wherein the chloro acid used in step (A1) is chosen from SOCl<sub>2</sub>, ClCO-COCl, PCl<sub>3</sub> and PCl<sub>5</sub>.

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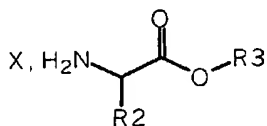
6. Process according to Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the acid chloride of formula (VII) obtained from step (A1) is subjected to a distillation step before being used in step (A2).

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7. Process according to any one of Claims 4 to 6, wherein the base used in step (A2) is an organic amine.

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8. Process according to any one of Claims 4 to 7, wherein the amino ester used in step (A2) is introduced in the form of a salt of formula (VIIIa):



(VIIIa)

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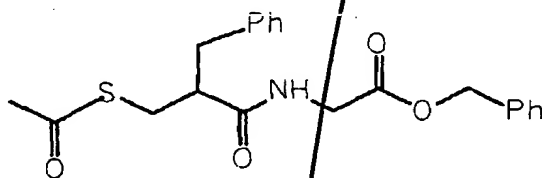
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14. Process according to any one of Claims 10 to 12, which further comprises, after step (B), a subsequent step (C) of separation of the diastereoisomers obtained in step (B).

15. Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 9,  
wherein said obtained compound of formula (I) is  
benzyl N-(RS)-[2-acetylthiomethyl-1-oxo-3-  
phenylpropyl]glycinate of formula (II):

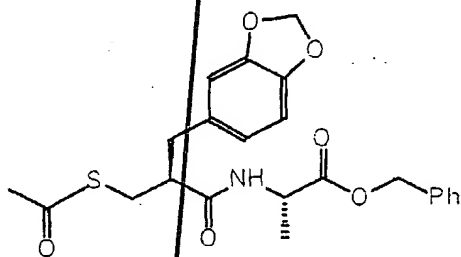
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(II)

16. Process according to any one of Claims 1 to 14,  
wherein said obtained compound of formula (I) is  
benzyl N-(S)-[2-acetylthiomethyl-1-oxo-3-(3,4-  
methylenedioxyphenyl)propyl]- (S)-alaninate of  
formula (III):

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(III)

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